The ROCK-A-CHAW
May 2005

Skateboarding is a Stanislaus tradition

'Modern' Sport Part of Long History at SSC

BY CHRISTIAN BARKER

Ever since 1964, when Jimmy Landry brought the first skateboard to St. Stanislaus, skateboarding has been a sport shared by many of the students. Most people thought this sport would never catch on, but they were wrong.

The number of students who skateboarded grew rapidly – especially from students who didn,t make the intra-mural teams. None of the students had trouble riding a skateboard after some practice, and even the international students got into the sport.

"As the skate boarding population grew," explained Joe Melley, director of skateboarding events and graduate of SSC, "we needed a competition." The competition was to skate the campus on their back two wheels, through cones, and do a trick. The winner did a handstand on his back two wheels, jumped off the board, and landed back on it.

Skateboarding has never really reached its high point, but in 1965 the students did start to take an interest in this challenging sport. Even though the sport has not yet made it to the mainstream, the challenge and the willingness to excel at the sport will keep it going at St. Stanislaus.

John Cameron grabs some air on some steps after school.

The sidewalks, stairs, ramps, and other various places where not always there. The students used to skate on the galleries, sidewalks, and the ramp connecting the dinning hall to the brother's quarters. They would skate these places from 3:15 to 5:30. During that time they jumped over trashcans and performed Ollies without much difficulty.

"You had to watch your step, or you were going to get run over!" said Brother Joseph, one of the dorm brothers. They went everywhere on their skateboards.

Two years ago SSC built a quarter pipe on the back basketball fields. Since it was used to a great extent it faded out and eventually was ruined. However, the students did not stop skate boarding, but in fact kept at it even more than they had previously.

The 6th and 7th grade students were the first students to take part in this sport, but today it is done by all grades. Even though it was a physically straining sport the younger students still did it just as well as the students who were twice there age.

As time has passed, another reason has arisen for the popularity of this sport: it is an individual sport. Both successes and failures in skateboarding deal with the person alone. After bad falls, it is the skater who picks himself up and continues on.

"Don't stop letting them skate. Getting hurt is simply a part of life," continued Brother Joseph. Even though this sport is over forty years old it is still a part of our past, present, and will continue to be part of the future at St. Stanislaus.

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St. Stanislaus News

Parking Lot a Disaster

BY ROBERT GOGGINS

Ask any student what he thinks is the most annoying problem at St. Stanislaus, and chances are he'll tell you that it's the lack of student parking.

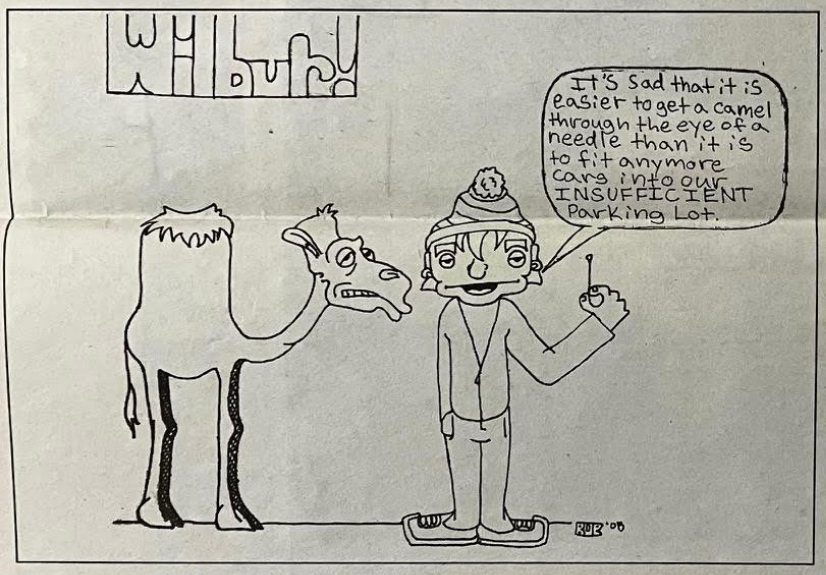
Every morning, the school parking lot fills-up at least ten minutes before school starts, and students are forced to park by the brothers, cemetery and walk up to school.

Here's the bad news – as the school year continues, more students will get their licenses, and the parking lot will fill-up even earlier than it does now.

The unfair part of the problem is the fact that students who would otherwise be on time for class are late because they have to park by the cemetery, and they face the same penalties directed at students who are late because they slept late.

Fortunately, there are plans for the construction of a new parking lot by the Brother Peter Gym.

Students will no longer be faced with the problems from the parking shortage.


Wilbury
It's sad that it is easier to get a camel through the eye of a needle than it is to fit anymore cars into our INSUFFICIENT Parking Lot.

Help Needed on Editorial Staff

The newspaper staff is in need of reporters and columnists. While there is an abundance of stories and editorials – along with the even more important unused white space – we at the Rock-A-Chaw have had a difficult time in assembling those stories into what you read now.

There is a difference between a story existing and that story being in touchable, readable print. Ideas, though perhaps intrinsically useful, are idle and impotent lest they are exchanged in some medium; they need a channel in which to both flow and be directed. And that is exactly what newspapers, including the one in your hands, are about.

Therefore we humbly request anybody who: is interested in working on our paper (or more correctly, your paper), has a talent such as photography or computer skills, or even if they just have an idea for a story to contact us. Newspaper meetings are typically held every Tuesday and sometimes Thursday, or you can talk to one of the staff members during the school day.

Remember, this is your opportunity to lend lettering to your words and to describe the experience of life on our campus. Please do not pass it up.

- The Editors

Rock Quarry

BY BRUCE RUSHING

The Rock Quarry is a column that gives a brief description of events that have occurred at SSC. The Quarry's goal is to chisel out the extraordinary from the ordinary events at Stanislaus

Mr. Gemeli Stuck in Elevator

Trapped! In an elevator! While this occurrence is frequently used as the subject in television dramas and sitcoms, Mr. Gemelli was not in Hollywood when he got stuck in the school elevator after a power outage.

During eighth period on October 28 and shortly before three o,clock, the power breaker controlling power to the school blew and the electricity went out. Mr. Gemelli, who happened to have been in the elevator at the time of the power outage, was alarmed when the lights went out and the elevator froze, along with its doors.

Luckily, within about 20 minutes the faculty knew about Mr. Gemelli,s predicament and Mr. Verlander opened the elevator doors using a special key freeing its prisoner. When asked what he thought about the ordeal, Mr. Gemelli replied, "Take the stairs: it is good exercise."

Hurricane Season Blows Through

While the students, faculty, and Brothers were spared the full wrath of Ivan the Terrible on September 16, 2004, they still encountered the labor of cleaning the yards of debris.

In addition, the three days missed will have to be made up. So far, one day has already been made up, December 18, 2004.

The days remaining include, May 30, 2005, and May 31, 2005. Both will be final exam days.

Ivan then returned as a tropical storm a couple of weeks later, raising the tides to above average. This ghostly storm was soon replaced by tropical storm Matthew on October 8, 2004, which caused only more mess.

However, thanks to the diligent work of students and staff alike, the grounds were restored to good order. The hurricane season ended on November 30th.

The Rock-a-Chaw

The Rock-A-Chaw is the official student news publication of St. Stanislaus College, 304 South Beach Blvd., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520; Phone 228-467-9057; Fax 228-466-2972. This is the 87th year that the Rock-A-Chaw has been published. It is printed "irregularly" during the school year.

The 2005 Rock-A-Chaw staff includes:

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Extras

Troy Johnston, Wes Sanderford, Robert Goggins and Jacob Graham in concert in Diamondhead.

Student Bands Rocking On

BY MATTHEW VOLLENWIEDER

In the past decade and a half many students at St. Stanislaus have either learned to play an instrument or have tried to start their own band.

One example of a band started by students while attending SSC would be the band Cellar Door, who played at one of our school dances this year. This band includes three Stanislaus seniors: Robert Goggins, Jacob Graham, and Troy Johnston.

However, being a member of a band isn't just about being paid to have 15 minutes of fame. Money must be raised for necessary things such as sound equipment and a stage. The music is demanding and so are the instruments. Sophomore Clark Seal, who has been playing guitar for two years, said, "It is hard to learn, but it is worth it when you get to play your own music." In addition to individual talent, being a member also requires constant practice as a band.

Cellar Door plays at an SSC dance.

But the result can be quite spectacular. As Robert Goggins put it, "[The band] took a lot of work, but it was definitely worth it and we had a blast."

Students Help at Day of Service

Joe Cure reads to studetns at the St. Rose de Lima Upstart Program.

Sports

Jordan Ellis celebrates after the SSC football team wins the District Championship game in Gautier.

Fall Sports Recap

FOOTBALL

SSC's memorable 2004 football season came to a heartbreaking end with a 29-15 loss to South Pike in the 2nd round of the state playoffs. Even though the season ended a little earlier than hoped, it was anything but a *disappointment.*

The 2004 Football Rocks will go down as one of the best football teams in school history. They won the Division 8-4A Championship with a perfect 6-0 district record. The Rocks went 9-2 overall, their first nine-win season since 1967. They also won a state playoff game for the first time in school history.

Fourteen SSC players received Division 8-4A post-season honors. Quarterback Lance Cuevas was chosen as the offensive MVP, and senior linebacker Lee Klein was selected as the defensive MVP. J.C. Brignone, Josh Duplessis, and Stefan Sofianos were named to the 1st team offense, and Michael Cure and Jordan Ellis were selected to the 1st team defense. SSC players receiving 2nd team honors include Floyd Dedeaux, Bret Bentz, Brennan Thomas, Brenan Gordon, Zack Elkins, Caleb McQueen, and Bryce Morreale.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The cross-country Rocks placed second in district and eighth at the 4A State Meet in Clinton to close out a tough 2004 season.

At the state meet, senior Bobby Nilson placed ninth to lead the Rocks and receive All-State honors. Senior Sam Hudgens placed 38th, Brad Reinhart placed 44th, Chaz Singleton finished 56th, and Brennan Marlowe finished 60th in the field of 143 runners.

The previous week, Nilson, Hudgens, and senior Troy Johnston received All-District honors as SSC missed out on the district title by one point.

SWIMMING

The SSC swim team placed 6th overall, and second in 4A competition, at the State Championship Swim Meet held in Biloxi.

Rock-a-Chaw swimmers set three new school records and scored 106 points on the way to their sixth place finish. The medley relay team of Christopher Donahue, Christian Walter, Allston Lumpkin, and Sherman Necaise placed sixth overall with a school record time of 1:55.46. Donahue also set individual records in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle. The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Freddie Kippes, Necaise, Lumpkin, and Donahue placed sixth overall as well, and first among 4A schools.

Reilly Bourgeois, Kevin Duvieilh, Evan Magers, Christopher Necaise, and Sean Bradford also helped contribute to the Rock's success by swimming their fastest individual times of the season at the meet.

Basketball Rock-a-Chaws Claim Division 8-4A Title

BY BRAD REINHART

The St. Stanislaus Rock-a-Chaws knocked off cross-town rivals Bay High 52-40 to claim the Division 8-4A Championship on February 18th. As expected, a large crowd from both schools came out to see the two teams battle for the division title.

The game was intense, and the atmosphere inside the Brother Peter Gymnasium was electrifying.

In the end, only the "Rowdy Rocks" were left standing.

SSC really controlled the game from start to finish, although Bay High pulled close at some points. The Rock's stiff defense kept Bay's offense in check for most of the game, and long Bay High scoring droughts helped to lead SSC to victory.

Derrick Willis shoots a three in the Division Championship game.

SSC Junior Ludovic Dovonou led all scorers with 17 points. Ramsey Shawa and Mike Rice each added 10 points for the Rocks.

Leading Bay High scorer was Lorenzo Lewis, who had 14 points.

After the game, Division 8-4A honors were formally announced.

SSC Junior Mike Rice was named the Most Valuable Player for the 2004-2005 season. SSC head coach Jay Ladner was honored as the boys' Coach of the Year, along with Vancleave coach David Owens.

Other Rock-a-Chaws *named to the All-Division* Team included Ludovic Dovonou and Ramsey Shawa. The Rocks then advanced to the South State Tournament, where they handily defeated Forrest County before falling to McComb.

Rocks Outsail the Competition

BY MATTHEW VOLLENWEIDER

After a successful season last year, the SSC sailing team has started this year off with another win. The team has been having intense practices throughout the school year to make sure that they secure and advance their spot in the National Championships.

In this year's first competition, the Nokia Sugar Bowl Regatta, the team took first place.

"Our season is going well, our fleet racing is great, and we are making progress on our team racing," commented coach Dan Zwerg.

On April 2nd and 3rd, the team competed in the Interscholastic Sailing Association's Southeastern District Qualifying Regattas, which took place in Austin, Texas. The Rocks placed second in the Baker Regatta (team racing) and fourth in the Mallory Regatta (fleet racing). The team made it to the Baker Regatta National Championship last year.

Last season, Coach Zwerg brought six sailors to the Baker National Regatta in Annapolis, Maryland. The team placed twelfth in the Baker Nationals, which is the national high school sailing championship.

March Madness

The 2005 NCAA Tournament started on March 17th and for two weeks involved the top 64-college basketball teams. The final four that included Illinois, North Carolina, Michigan State, and Louisville, competed in St. Louis. The final champion was the North Carolina Tar Heels. There was a student basketball pool. The winners were from first to fifth, Cameron Hardin, Andrew Smith-Parker, Kody Cannon, Blake Williams, and Sean Bentz.